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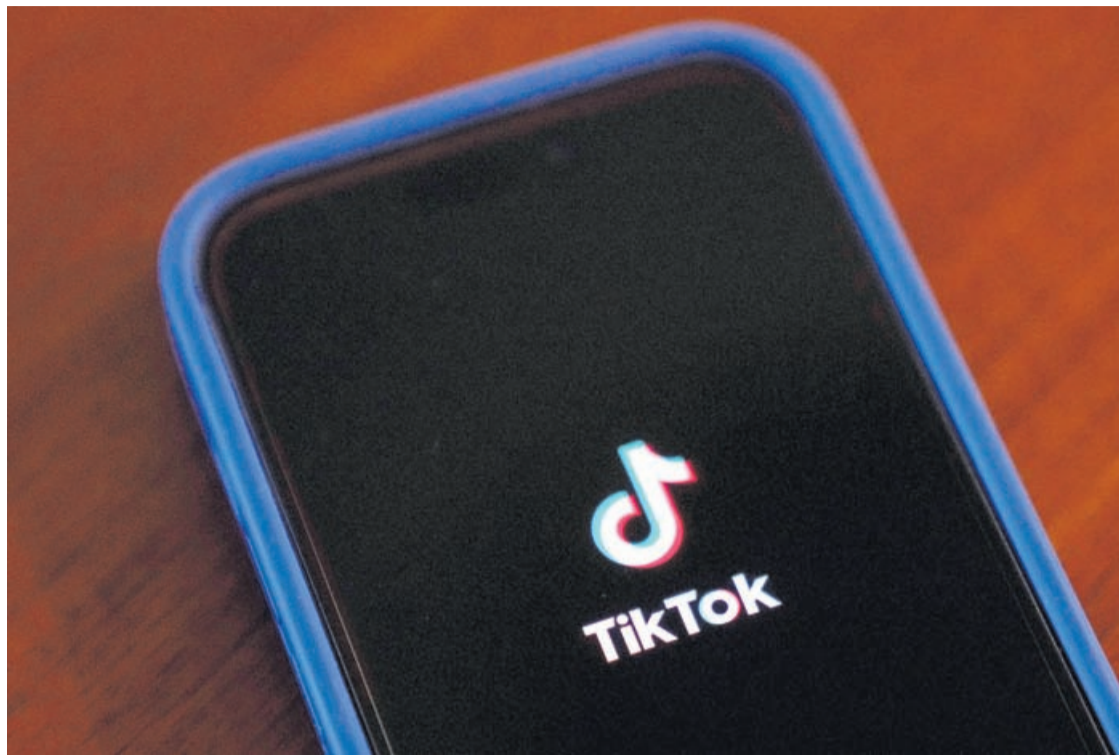
Trump extends TikTok ban deadline for a third time

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**
AP Technology Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Thursday signed an executive order to keep TikTok running in the U.S. for another 90 days to give his administration more time to broker a deal to bring the social media platform under American ownership. Trump disclosed the executive order on the Truth Social platform Thursday morning.

"As he has said many times, President Trump does not want TikTok to go dark. This extension will last 90 days, which the administration will spend working to ensure this deal is closed so that the American people can continue to use TikTok with the assurance that their data is safe and secure," White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a statement on Tuesday.

It is the third time Trump has extended the deadline. The first one was through an executive order on Jan. 20, his first day in office, after the platform went dark briefly when a national ban approved by Congress and upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court took effect. The second was in April when White House officials believed they were nearing a deal to spin off



The TikTok app logo is shown on an iPhone on Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, in Houston.

Associated Press

TikTok into a new company with U.S. ownership that fell apart after China backed out following Trump's tariff announcement.

It is not clear how many times Trump can or will keep extending the ban as the government continues to try to negotiate a deal for TikTok, which is owned by China's ByteDance. While there is no clear legal basis for the extensions, so far there have been no legal challenges to fight them. Trump has amassed more than 15 million followers on TikTok since he joined last year, and he has cred-

ited the trendsetting platform with helping him gain traction among young voters. He said in January that he has a "warm spot for TikTok."

TikTok praised Trump for signing an extension Thursday.

"We are grateful for President Trump's leadership and support in ensuring that TikTok continues to be available for more than 170 million American users and 7.5 million U.S. businesses that rely on the platform as we continue to work with Vice President Vance's Office," the company said in

a statement. As the extensions continue, it appears less and less likely that TikTok will be banned in the U.S. any time soon. The decision to keep TikTok alive through an executive order has received some scrutiny, but it has not faced a legal challenge in court unlike many of Trump's other executive orders. Jeremy Goldman, analyst at Emarketer, called TikTok's U.S. situation a "deadline purgatory."

The whole thing "is starting to feel less like a ticking clock and more like a looped ringtone. This political Groundhog Day is start-

ing to resemble the debt ceiling drama: a recurring threat with no real resolution."

That's not stopping TikTok from pushing forward with its platform, Forrester analyst Kelsey Chickering says. "TikTok's behavior also indicates they're confident in their future, as they rolled out new AI video tools at Cannes this week," Chickering notes. "Smaller players, like Snap, will try to steal share during this 'uncertain time,' but they will not succeed because this next round for TikTok isn't uncertain at all."

For now, TikTok continues to function for its 170 million users in the U.S., and tech giants Apple, Google and Oracle were persuaded to continue to offer and support the app, on the promise that Trump's Justice Department would not use the law to seek potentially steep fines against them.

Americans are even more closely divided on what to do about TikTok than they were two years ago.

A recent Pew Research Center survey found that about one-third of Americans said they supported a TikTok ban, down from 50% in March 2023. Roughly one-third said they would oppose a ban, and a similar percentage said they weren't sure. □

Government says Harvard researcher accused of smuggling frog embryos brought 'biological materials'



Harvard University researcher Kseniia Petrova, 30, departs the John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse after being released on bail from federal custody on Thursday, June 12, 2025, in Boston.

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Attorneys argued over whether a Harvard researcher accused of smuggling frog embryos brought "biological materials" into the U.S. in a court hearing Wednesday.

Kseniia Petrova, a Russian-born scientist conducting cancer research for Harvard Medical School, appeared in Massachusetts federal court Wednesday for a probable cause hearing, where government and defense attorneys argued over whether she brought "biological materials" into the U.S., ABC News reported.

She was returning from a vacation from France in February when she was questioned by U.S. Customs and Border Protection at Boston Logan International Airport.

Petrova, 30, had stopped at a lab specializing in splicing superfine sections of frog embryos and obtained a package of samples for research. Federal officials on the social media website X accused her of lying about "carrying substances" into the country and alleged that she planned to smuggle the embryos through customs without declaring them.

She told The Associated Press in an interview in April that she did not realize the items needed to be declared and was not trying to sneak anything into the country.

Petrova was told her visa was being canceled and detained by immigration officials in Vermont after her initial arrest. She filed a petition seeking her release and was briefly sent to an ICE facility in Louisiana, after which a judge ruled the immigration officers' actions were unlawful. In May, she was charged with one count of smuggling. □

Party like it's 2018: Democrats look to 1st Trump midterms for 2025 races and 2026 momentum

By **BILL BARROW, OLIVIA DIAZ and MIKE CATALINI**
Associated Press

HENRICO COUNTY, Va. (AP) — Abigail Spanberger

opened her general election bid for Virginia governor Wednesday using her high school alma mater near Richmond.

"I grew up walking the halls of Tucker High School," the former congresswoman says as she walks past a bank of lockers in her first ad since securing the Democratic nomination. Later, she notes her experience as a CIA case officer, then in the halls of Congress as a tough-minded, get-things-done lawmaker.

The same kind of message is echoing in New Jersey from Rep. Mikie Sherrill, as she also makes a bid for governor. Both women are selling themselves as Democrats who can rise above the rancor of Donald Trump's Washington.

For national Democrats who have spent months debating how to counter the president's aggressive second administration, it's a reminder of what worked for the party during Trump's first term. Spanberger and Sherrill were headliners in the 2018 roster of center-left Democrats who helped flip House control from Republicans with balanced appeals to moderates, progressives and even anti-Trump conservatives. Now, they're leading statewide tickets in races that could offer Democrats a back-to-the-future path forward as they look toward next year's midterms.

"There are a lot of similarities" in Democrats' current position and the 2018 campaigns, said Sen. Ben Ray Lujan, D-N.M., who, as a House member, chaired his party's congressional campaign arm during Trump's first midterm election cycle. The 2018 Democratic freshman class yielded a net gain of 40 seats with a lineup that featured record numbers of women and plenty of candidates with national security and business backgrounds. A similar



Democratic gubernatorial candidate Abigail Spanberger addresses a crowd at a rally at her alma mater, J.R. Tucker High School, in Henrico, Va., Monday, June 16, 2025.

Associated Press

effort yielded a net gain of six governors.

The party's 2018 winners also included outspoken progressives like Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York and Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, elected in more liberal, urban districts. But the balance of power shifted on the backs of centrist candidates who carried the nation's suburbs and improved Democrats' performance in exurbs and even small-town, GOP-dominated areas.

Among Spanberger's and Sherrill's freshman colleagues were Elissa Slotkin of Michigan, another former CIA analyst, who won a suburban Detroit seat before her elevation to the Senate last November; Rep. Jason Crow, a former Army officer, who represents suburban Denver; and Rep. Angie Craig, who flipped a GOP-held seat in greater Minneapolis and now is running for Senate. Crow is now co-chairman of candidate recruitment for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Similar resumes are popping up among new Democratic recruits. In Michigan, for example, Bridget Brink, former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, announced her bid for Slotkin's old 7th Congressional District on

Wednesday by leaning into her international experience as a counter to Trump. Lujan said the common thread has been recruiting "real people, regular folks" with "incredible credentials" and an ability to hold "a real conversation with people around economic issues ... around the kitchen table" and campaign in any area.

So even as New Jersey's Sherrill calls her Republican rival Jack Ciattarelli a "Trump lackey" and Spanberger pledges in a fundraising email to "defeat Trump's agenda at the ballot box," their wider appeal depends on different arguments.

Sherrill has from the start touted her biography: a Naval Academy graduate, Navy Sea King helicopter pilot, federal prosecutor and mother of four. Her blue and gold yard signs have a chopper hovering above her name. She is also promising an "Affordability Agenda" to address voters' economic concerns.

Spanberger, part of the Problem Solvers Caucus when she was on Capitol Hill, leans into her deal-making centrism, promises to confront economic gaps and has pledged to campaign in every Virginia congressional district, in-

cluding where Trump has dominated. "It's not the job of the governor of Virginia to cater to President Trump," Spanberger said in one of her final primary campaign speeches. "It's not the job of the governor of Virginia to cater to a political party."

In an Associated Press interview earlier this spring, Spanberger even criticized former President Joe Biden for "posturing" by promising to eliminate student debt something he could not accomplish by presidential action alone. "Don't make promises you can't keep," she said. She also bristled when asked to describe her place on the political spectrum. She instead said she set goals by asking, "How do I impact the most people in the fastest way possible?"

Jared Leopold, a Democratic strategist who worked as a senior staffer for the Democratic Governors Association during the 2018 cycle, said it's notable that Spanberger and Sherrill avoid getting mired in the internal party tussle among progressives, liberals and moderates.

"Most voters aren't really thinking about things along a simple left-right political spectrum," especially in statewide races, Leopold

said. "People are looking for politicians who they think understand them and can get things done to help them."

He pointed to another 2018 Democratic standout: Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. Now a potential 2028 presidential candidate, Whitmer first gained national attention as a state legislator who spoke out about abortion rights and her experience of being raped as a college student. But she became a juggernaut in the governor's race with what Leopold called a "brilliant and simple" slogan: "Fix the damn roads!"

Of course, Democrats do not dispute that a candidate's military and national security experiences help neutralize routine Republican attacks of all Democrats as too liberal or out of touch. "These credentials for how they've served the country they're just sharing who they are," Lujan said. Said Leopold: "It certainly gives a different definition of what the Democratic Party is to some voters."

In Virginia, Republican nominee and Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears, who like Spanberger would become the first woman to serve in the state's top elected office, is trying to tie the Democratic nominee to her national party. Earle-Sears' social media accounts frequently share pictures of Spanberger and Biden hugging and wearing masks. She accuses Spanberger of effectively rubber-stamping Biden's legislative agenda while in Congress.

"Part of the challenge," Spanberger retorts, "is that either my opponent or people who might be running anywhere, who don't necessarily have things to run on, are going to try and distract." Spanberger, Sherrill and Democrats like them hope that most voters assess the GOP attacks and their own branding efforts like Fred Martucci, a retired glazier who voted early in Trenton, New Jersey. □

Longtime DEA informant charged in alleged scheme to extort high-level cocaine traffickers

By **JOSHUA GOODMAN**
and **JIM MUSTIAN**
Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — A drug informant who helped the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration build some of its biggest cases has been arrested and charged with scheming to extort major cocaine traffickers facing extradition from Colombia and the Dominican Republic. Jorge Hernández, 57, was charged in a criminal complaint unsealed Wednesday with one count of conspiring to commit wire fraud. He remains in custody after being arrested and making his initial court appearance Wednesday in federal court in Fort Lauderdale. Court papers allege that Hernández operated a scheme starting in 2020 in which he pretended to be a paralegal who, for the right price, could obtain lighter sentences for drug kingpins, according to 17-page FBI affidavit. The FBI alleged that Hernández demanded payments of \$1 million from six suspected drug traffickers who ended up surrendering or being extradited to the U.S. In exchange for the payments which came in the form of cash, jewelry, properties and vehicles in Colombia Hernández guaran-



Drug Enforcement Administration agents on June 13, 2016, in Florida.

teed short prison sentences that would be served "in an apartment similar to being on house arrest," the court papers said. But Hernández never delivered on his promises, nor did he have authority to offer such leniency. As the traffickers who thought they were buying influence grew upset, he would deny responsibility and shift blame to the traffickers' attorneys, the FBI said. Nestor Menendez, an attorney who represented Hernández at his initial appearance, declined to

comment. In two decades as a confidential informant, Hernández had been one of federal law enforcement's most prolific case-makers, providing the types of tips and information that led to prosecutions of high seas drug smugglers, a former University of Miami money laundering expert and a close ally of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. Better known in law enforcement circles by his Spanish nickname Boliche bowling ball the beefy, bald-headed Colombian was also the star

witness in the 2023 bribery trial of two former DEA supervisors convicted for leaking information on ongoing drug investigations. He got his start as an informant in 2000 shortly after he was arrested in Venezuela, where he had fled to escape drug dealers seeking to kill him, according to a 2023 investigation by The Associated Press. After bribing officials to secure his release, he approached the DEA, admitting to killing three people during his days as a drug runner near his home along

Colombia's Caribbean coast. He then began helping the DEA build some of its biggest cases. Agents grew so reliant on Hernández's network of criminal associates across the Western hemisphere that they set him up with a phone and desk at a federal anti-narcotics task force, the AP found. The DEA terminated his cooperation agreement in 2008, court records show, after authorities discovered he had threatened to expose informants as snitches unless they paid him to keep quiet. But he kept close to some of his former DEA handlers and eventually returned to Miami. In 2016, he met DEA agent John Costanzo, who was supervising agents investigating Colombian businessman Alex Saab, a suspected bag man for Venezuela's Maduro. In 2023, Hernández testified against Costanzo and another former DEA agent convicted of taking bribes from narco defense attorneys. Hernández turned the tables on the DEA around the same time he was charged alongside University of Miami professor Bruce Bagley for helping move \$3 million on behalf of Saab, who prosecutors said was secretly negotiating a deal to betray Maduro. □

Associated Press

ICE agents asked to leave Dodger Stadium parking lot, team says

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Dodgers organization said Thursday that



The exterior of Dodger Stadium, home of the Los Angeles Dodgers is seen in Los Angeles on March 25, 2020.

Associated Press

it asked U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to leave the Dodg-

er Stadium grounds after they arrived at a parking lot near one of the gates. Dozens of federal agents with their faces covered arrived in SUVs and cargo vans to a lot near the stadium's Gate E entrance. A group of protesters carrying signs against ICE started amassing shortly after, local media reported. "This morning, ICE agents came to Dodger Stadium and requested permission to access the parking lots. They were denied entry to the grounds by the organization," the team said in a statement posted on X.

Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said the agents were not trying to enter the stadium. "This had nothing to do with the Dodgers. (Customs and Border Protection) vehicles were in the stadium parking lot very briefly, unrelated to any operation or enforcement," she said in an email. The team said the game against the San Diego Padres later Thursday will be played as planned. Television cameras showed about four agents remained at the lot Thursday afternoon while officers with the Los Angeles Po-

lice Department stood between them and dozens of protesters, some carrying signs that read "I Like My Ice Crushed" and chanting "ICE out of LA!" Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez arrived at the stadium and said she had been in communication with Dodger officials and the mayor's office. "We've been in communication with the mayor's office, with the Dodgers, with Dodgers security, about seeing if they can get them moved off their private property," she told KABC-TV. □

Thai prime minister's leaked phone call with Cambodia's Hun Sen sparks outrage and political turmoil

By JINTAMAS SAKSORN-CHAI

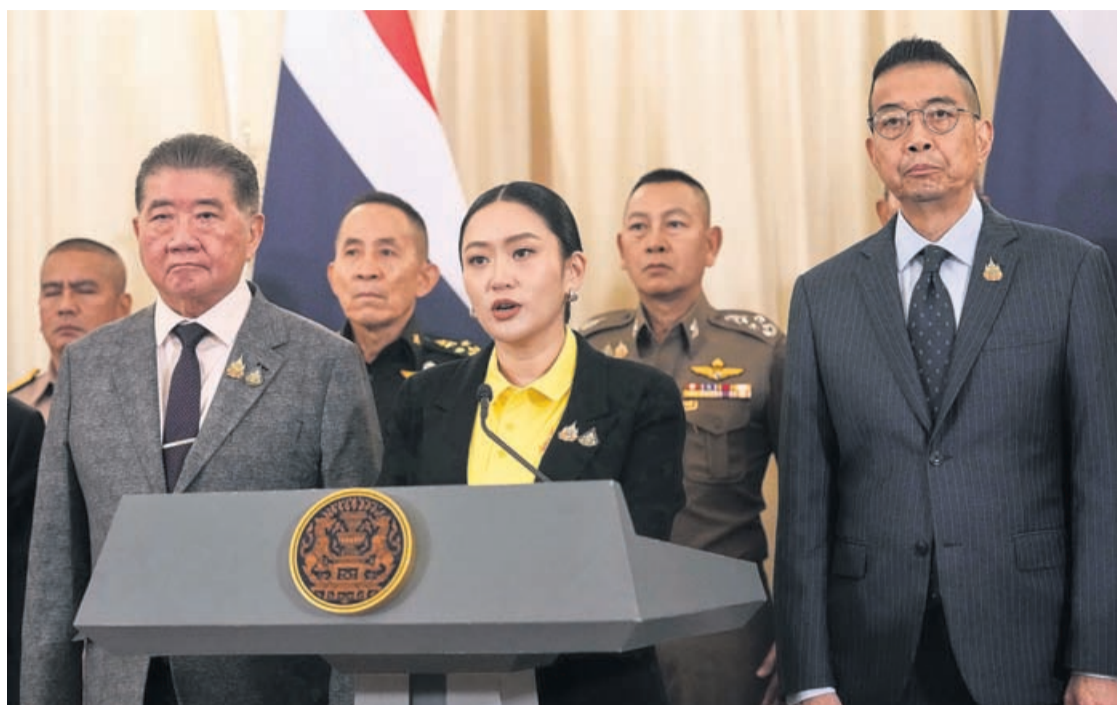
Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra faced growing calls for her resignation in a deepening political crisis set off by a leaked recording of her negotiating with Cambodia's former leader in the two nations' latest border dispute.

Paetongtarn apologized to the public on Thursday, after a major coalition partner used the leaked phone call to pull out of the fragile government led by her Pheu Thai Party. Paetongtarn has already been criticized for a perceived soft stance toward Cambodia, especially by right-wing nationalists who are longtime foes of her father, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

The latest border dispute involved an armed confrontation May 28 in a relatively small contested territory in which one Cambodian soldier was killed.

Outrage over the leak



Thailand's Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, center, talks to reporters at Government house in Bangkok, Thailand, Thursday, June 19, 2025.

Associated Press

Cambodia's Senate President Hun Sen posted the full, 17-minute phone call on his Facebook page after a shorter version was leaked Wednesday. He said he recorded the conversation "to avoid any misunderstanding or misrepresentation in official matters," adding that he

shared the recording with at least 80 people. In the recording, Paetongtarn was heard calling Hun Sen "uncle" as they discussed through translators whether they should lift border restrictions imposed after the deadly clash. Backlash revolved around her calling a Thai army

commander in charge of the border area where the clash happened as "an opponent."

Critics said she was trying to please Hun Sen too much and made Thailand look weak.

Paetongtarn said her comments were a negotiation tactic and that her goal

was to bring peace between the countries.

However, she said she would no longer engage in a private talk with Hun Sen as she could not trust him. "It's now clear that all that he cares about is his popularity in the country, without considering impacts on relations with other countries," she said.

Thailand's Foreign Affairs Ministry said it submitted a protest letter over the leaked recording with the Cambodian ambassador, saying that Cambodia's actions were unacceptable and "a breach of diplomatic etiquette, a serious violation of trust, and undermines conduct between two neighboring countries."

Paetongtarn has described the two families as having close, longtime relationships. Her father Thaksin and Hun Sen reportedly regard each other as "god-brothers." In 2009, Hun Sen appointed Thaksin as a Cambodian government adviser, but Thaksin soon resigned the position. □

Hackers say they wiped out \$90 million from Iran cryptocurrency exchange

By GABE LEVIN

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Hackers with possible links to Israel have drained more than \$90 million from Nobitex, Iran's largest cryptocurrency exchange, according to blockchain analytics firms. The group that claimed responsibility for the hack leaked on Thursday what it said was the company's full source code. "ASSETS LEFT IN NOBITEX ARE NOW ENTIRELY OUT IN THE OPEN," the group wrote on its Telegram account. The stolen funds were transferred to addresses bearing messages that criticized Iran's Revolutionary Guard. Blockchain analytics firm Elliptic wrote in a blog post. It said the attack likely was not finan-

cially motivated as the wallets the hackers had poured the money into "effectively burned the funds in order to send Nobitex a political message." The hackers group, Gonjeshke Darande "Predatory Sparrow" in Farsi accused Nobitex of having helped Iran's government to evade Western sanctions over the country's rapidly advancing nuclear program and transfer money to militants, in a post on X claiming the attack.

Nobitex appeared to have confirmed the attack. Its app and website were down as it assessed "unauthorized access" to its systems, it said in a post on X. The theft spanned a range of cryptocurrencies, including Bitcoin, Ethereum,

Dogecoin and more, said head of national security intelligence at Chainalysis Andrew Fierman. The breach is "particularly significant given the comparatively modest size of Iran's cryptocurrency market," he added.

The hack appears to be motivated by escalating tensions in the Israel-Iran conflict, which broke out last week when Israel struck Iran's nuclear sites and military officials, drawing Tehran's response with barrages of missiles. It came after the group said it had destroyed data in a cyberattack against Iran's state-controlled Bank Sepah on Tuesday.

Elliptic said that relatives of Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei were linked to the exchange and that

sanctioned Revolutionary Guard operatives had used Nobitex. It shared evidence that the exchange had sent and received funds from cryptocurrency wallets controlled by Iranian allies including Yemen's Houthis and Hamas.

Gonjeshke Darande has previously claimed responsibility for other high-level cyberattacks against Iran, including a 2021 operation that paralyzed gas stations and a 2022 effort against a steel mill that sparked a large fire. □



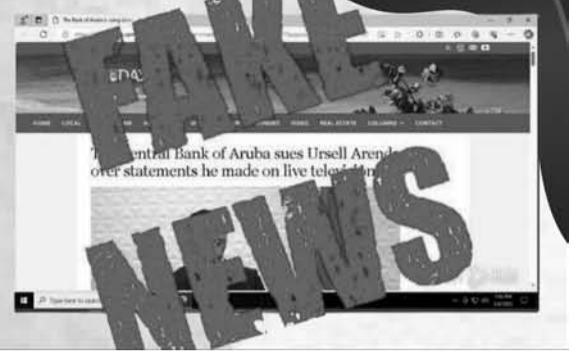
Bitcoin logos are displayed at the Inside Bitcoins conference and trade show on April 7, 2014, in New York.

Associated Press

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Spain rejects NATO's anticipated 5% defense spending proposal as 'unreasonable'

By SUMAN NAISHADHAM and LORNE COOK
Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Spain has rejected a NATO proposal to spend 5% of gross domestic product on defense needs that's due to be announced next week, calling it "unreasonable."

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, in a letter sent on Thursday to NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, said that Spain "cannot commit to a specific spending target in terms of GDP" at next week's NATO summit in The Hague, Netherlands.

Any agreement to adopt a new spending guideline must be made with the consensus of all 32 NATO member states. So Sánchez's decision risks derailing next week's summit, which U.S. President Donald



Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez speaks during a press conference at the Spanish Embassy in Beijing, April 11, 2025.

Trump is due to attend, and creating a last-minute

shakeup that could have lingering repercussions.

Most U.S. allies in NATO are on track to endorse Trump's

demand that they invest 5% of GDP on their defense and military needs. In early June, Sweden and the Netherlands said that they aim to meet the new target. A NATO official on Thursday said that discussions between allies were ongoing about a new defense spending plan.

"For Spain, committing to a 5% target would not only be unreasonable, but also counterproductive, as it would move Spain away from optimal spending and it would hinder the EU's ongoing efforts to strengthen its security and defense ecosystem," Sánchez wrote in the letter seen by The Associated Press.

Spain was the lowest spender in the trans-Atlantic alliance last year, directing less than 2% of its GDP on defense expenditure. □

Catholics call for environmental action at Rio de Janeiro's iconic Christ the Redeemer statue

By ELÉONORE HUGHES
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazilian Catholic worshippers laid down an eco-friendly carpet in front of the world-famous Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro on Thursday and called for the protection of the environment ahead of UN climate talks in the Amazon. Tapestries are a fixture of the Corpus Christi religious feast when Catholics celebrate what they believe is the presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

This year, the colorful carpet was made from approximately 460 kilos (1,014 pounds) of recycled plastic caps. Over the past few years the Christ the Redeemer sanctuary has increasingly used the at-

tention the iconic statue generates to spotlight environmental concerns.

"These caps could be polluting the environment. Today they're here as a

carpet," said Marcos Martins, environmental manager and educator at the sanctuary. "It's the circular economy: we take the material, we're reusing it here

and then we're going to reuse it again with an exhibition."

Just after day break and before the first flock of tourists arrived Thursday, Cardinal Orani João Tempesta led celebrations at the site overlooking Guanabara Bay and Rio's famed Sugarloaf mountain.

The caps are "a good reminder of our co-responsibility with ecology, of our concern for the environment, which are very characteristic of Christ the Redeemer," Rio's archbishop told journalists.

Thursday's celebration also paid homage to the late Pope Francis and his landmark environmental encyclical in which he cast care for the environment in stark

moral terms. In the papal letter Francis called for a bold cultural revolution to correct what he said was a "structurally perverse" economic system in which the rich exploited the poor, turning Earth into a pile of "filth" in the process.

"The COP30 is coming up and we've just had the U.N. Ocean Conference. Nothing makes more sense than Christ being a great spokesperson for this issue," said Carlos Lins, the sanctuary's marketing director. Earlier this month, the sanctuary held workshops, discussion groups and actions focusing on environmental preservation. The statue perched on the Corcovado mountain is itself located in the Tijuca National Park. □



A Mass celebrating the Catholic holiday of Corpus Christi is held at the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Thursday, June 19, 2025.

Associated Press

Sea turtle conservation by Turtugaruba Foundation



ORANJESTAD — Turtugaruba was founded on September 3rd, 2003, by a group of enthusiastic volunteers. Ten years earlier in 1993, a Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan (STRAP) was introduced in Aruba and the rest of the Caribbean as an initiative of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). Tom Barmes, who was working at DLVV (Department of Agriculture, Husbandry and Fishery) was one of the writers of the STRAP for Aruba, together with Karen Eckert, director of WIDECAST (Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network). This is how sea turtle conservation started on the island following a plan that is still complied with today.

Tom formed a group of volunteers around him like an organization such as DLVV, because nature does not know office hours. This group of volunteers used the name Widecast Aruba and today there are still a few of them active. They first started protecting the Leatherback Sea Turtle nests on Palm Beach and Eagle Beach. This group also investigated which other species of sea turtles use Aruba as their nesting habitat and which beaches are used by them. For a period of 25 years, a study has been conducted in which investigators monitored the beaches every morning to study turtle movement. Now, there is a good overview of sea turtle nesting activities.

There are 4 different species of sea turtle that visit Aruba to lay their eggs, each with their own specific season:

- Leatherback Sea Turtle - Lederschildpad - Driekiel (March – September)
- Loggerhead Sea Turtle - Dikkopschildpad - Cawama (May – September)
- Hawksbill Sea Turtle - Karetschildpad - Caret (June – December)
- Green Turtle - Soepschildpad - Turtuga Blanco (July-November)

Investigators also reached a better understanding and overview of the biggest threats to the sea turtles' existence in Aruba and how these problems should be tackled. Despite the hard work all those years, most problems have not really gone away. Luckily—and thanks to the enormous efforts from the volunteers, the sea turtles are still here. On Aruba, the sea turtles are threatened with extinction by pollution, people driving ATVs on dunes and beaches and the loss of nesting beaches due to coastal development for tourism. Because coastal development comes with artificial lighting, these can cause major issues for sea turtles. Female turtles usually come ashore at night looking for a dark beach to make her nest. However, a dark beach is hard to find here nowadays. Light causes stress and can result in her returning to the sea without laying her eggs. Furthermore, artificial lighting causes disorientation for the baby sea turtles (hatchlings).

They crawl towards artificial light sources (like streetlights, hotel lights, etc.) and end up walking in the opposite direction towards the hotels and away from the sea. In the 90's, it was a common occurrence to find complete nests of about 70 hatchlings dead on the street due to being run over by passing cars. Thanks to their protection methods and a lot of time and effort, the volunteers of Turtugaruba have managed to get this



under control. However, for long-term prevention, there must be less light visible on the beaches and a strict regulation of it. Sea turtles simply need dark nesting beaches for their survival. It is clear that even more coastal development would not make the situation better for the sea turtles. Do we need more hotel rooms? And even busier beaches? These are the choices that Aruba has to make. Do we want to leave a place for the sea turtles? Not only do we need sea turtles, but so does the rest of the world! Sea turtles play a vital role in keeping our oceans healthy. The Green Turtle, for example, keeps the sea grasses on the bottom of the sea short and therefore a healthy place for many fish to deposit their eggs. The Leatherback, the largest turtle of the world, eats mainly jellyfish and helps maintain the balance between jellyfish and plankton.

Despite the threats that exist on Aruba, the turtles still keep coming. That's why today Turtugaruba is especially proud of the volunteers and the many people and organizations of our community that carry a warm place in their hearts for the sea turtles. All four species are active now, which means all hands on deck in the field for us, the volunteers. We strive to keep the sea turtles, our oldest 'repeat guests', always coming back to Aruba and get the chance to reproduce here. □

Visit the natural bridges of Aruba!

(Oranjestad)—After you've visited the Alto Vista Church, the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and the mini natural pool that is located right next to it, you're next up around the northern coast line must be the Natural Bridge. Once the largest natural bridge in the Caribbean, this bridge has been a tourist attraction for many years.



The bridge was formed during thousands of years, cut and crafted by the wild waves that crash into the coral stone walls of the coast. Before its collapse, this bridge measured 30 meters in length and 7 meters in height, making it the biggest natural bridge in the Caribbean at the time. For many years, this site was also a frequently visited beach, as the bridge had a small opening through which the water would flow into the tiny beach.

Unfortunately in 2005, the bridge collapsed, and the little beach dried up. Despite this, this site remained a tourist attraction, with many visitors walking along the coral cliffs of the bridge to see the spectacular view of the northern coastline and the Caribbean Sea. Visitors can also still visit the souvenir shop on the left of the bridge entrance.

While the natural bridge no longer is functional, there is now a smaller natural bridge very close. This bridge is often called the "Baby Bridge" or "Daughter Bridge". □



A THREE-WAY MARRIAGE: ARUBA, ESPORTS AND TOURISM

I'm certain everyone reading this can identify with two (2) of the three words in the subject. Aruba's tourism history is no secret. Now as you may know, I try not to bore you with statistics but while thinking about this article, I did two things, one I parked on the boulevard pretending to be a plane spotter on Sunday last whereby I noticed about five (5) airlines landing in the space of 45mins and secondly, I took to the tourist area to observe the activity and get a pulse. Back to the subject, what does the 3rd word mean...it's Esports...competitive video gaming...competitive electronic gaming including mobile gaming! You know electronic games, that thing us as millennials cried because we could only play on holidays and felt the pain when we lost current while playing and unable to save.....vs now it's used as the babysitter to keep children occupied! Now what if I told you, which many readers may know, people now make careers and millions of dollars from playing competitively. I am sure many of you reading this can identify that many play these games, even on their phones.

Now think about this - what if we had some of the world's best video gamers competing against each other engulfed by the beautiful island that is Aruba?.....just imagine hearing a famous commentator saying Guys we are here in Dushiiii Aruba for the Grand Finals of the Minecraft Global Challenge.....to me this line alone, I can see every Gen Alpha/Gen Z wanting to be there in person while also watching on their phones (caught it?). Amazing if you ask me. I remember participating in the World esports Championships in Bali 2022 whereby 100+ countries participated and looking at the impact, I then asked myself - What if this was done in the Caribbean?

Now let's look at 4 Reasons why these three can be a marriage:

1) Aruba Does Tourism Well

I. For the year 2024, Aruba Tourism Authority reported a 13% increase in visitors compared to 2023 with Latin American visitors representing a 38% increase.

II. If one were to invest \$1 in the rate of total visitor growth to Aruba over the last 20years, that \$ would now be worth \$1.78 which is a 78% growth rate over a 20-year period.

2) Development of Skillsets in the Local Communities

I. Based on research, it is estimated that Aruba has about 16,000 residents actively involved in gaming. Also, according to Newzoo and the ATA Deep Dive on Gen Z and Millennials, both demographics across three (3) geographical types ranks gaming within their top 6 things to do.

II. While the topic is on esports and competitive gaming, there are several other careers birthed from within the gaming industry. Think of it like this. New career options provide a dual

benefit, the learning of the new skill and the production of the skill. Also now focusing on the esports part of the industry - someone is required to produce the event, create content from the event, design the event, ensure the games are fully tested, manage the event. While given the share size of the market, I think any opportunity to develop local exportable skills will be welcomed. Furthermore, the wider gaming industry has been producing increasing career opportunities. Recently I saw a news article on schools in Aruba being equipped with fiber internet as a foundation for digital learning and technology within education. Very timely I must say.

3) The Ocean is Relatively Blue in the Caribbean but there are proven models

a. While the Caribbean is both known for sports and tourism, it's relatively a small player in the sports tourism market. It is even smaller when looking at sectors such as video game based sports.

b. The largest ongoing and consistent sports tourism outlet in the Caribbean; The Caribbean Premier League (CPL) has some fantastic numbers. Quick maths:

i. 2022 - USD135m generated for the Caribbean Region/36,000 rooms/+1,500 employed

ii. 2023 - USD100M generated for Guyana alone while the tournament was hosted throughout the region

4) Esports and Sports Tourism

a. According to the 2024 Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) report, the number one goal is to increase the economic value of tourism. This when tied with the facts that sports tourism covers about 10% of the world's expenditure on tourism plus the estimated sports tourism growth rate of 18% between 2023-2030 plus esports having an estimated yearly growth rate of 6% for same period - provides all the elements for the marriage.

b. Given the waters are relatively uncharted in the Caribbean, I believe this presents an amazing opportunity for Aruba to be a leader. Sports tourism is already active and done well on the island via the Beach Tennis (+1,200 from 40 countries over the last 3 years) and Kite Surfing (Aruba Hi-Winds is the largest of its kind in the Caribbean). Based on both, this means there would be lessons learned already to be transferred to that of esports.

To conclude, I would say that while I have discussed esports, that's just part of the wider opportunity that is the gaming market. The reality is that most Millennials/Gen Z and Gen Alpha engage directly with games or gaming related content. That being said, I believe the opportunity for Aruba to position itself is great. The country has the ability to own this space and furthermore generate profits via Caribbean expansion. As the youths say, there are levels to this



thing! Have a think about it! I am sure many of you reading this can identify with the possibility of this becoming a reality.... Happy Reading!

Kwesi Charles is a seasoned corporate finance and investment professional with over 15 years of experience covering areas such as investment banking, private equity, debt financing, financial modeling, and consumer credit. He has USD billions of dollars in transaction experience.

Kwesi holds both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Finance. His insights have been published in Trinidad and Tobago's leading business newspaper. He also proudly represents the Caribbean as the sole regional contributor to two of the largest credit union news platforms in the world: CUInsight and CUManagement.

When not involved in Finance, Kwesi is deeply passionate about sports and competitive video gaming, particularly esports. He even led the charge in establishing the Trinidad and Tobago National FIFA Video Gaming Team.

He is currently the Managing Director of Bluestart Capital Aruba VBA (Facilito Cash), a subsidiary of the Unicomer Group. Through his blog, Kwesi shares thought leadership on finance, strategy, and sports—three areas that intersect in powerful ways in our daily lives.

His goal? To create value, share perspective, and help others navigate the ever-evolving world of finance.

For collaborations, discussions, or opportunities, Kwesi can be reached at kwesinyalcharles@gmail.com.

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Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations

(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your "off-road" trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.

Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to

the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding "mondi"*. This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breath-taking view of the

Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

Casibari

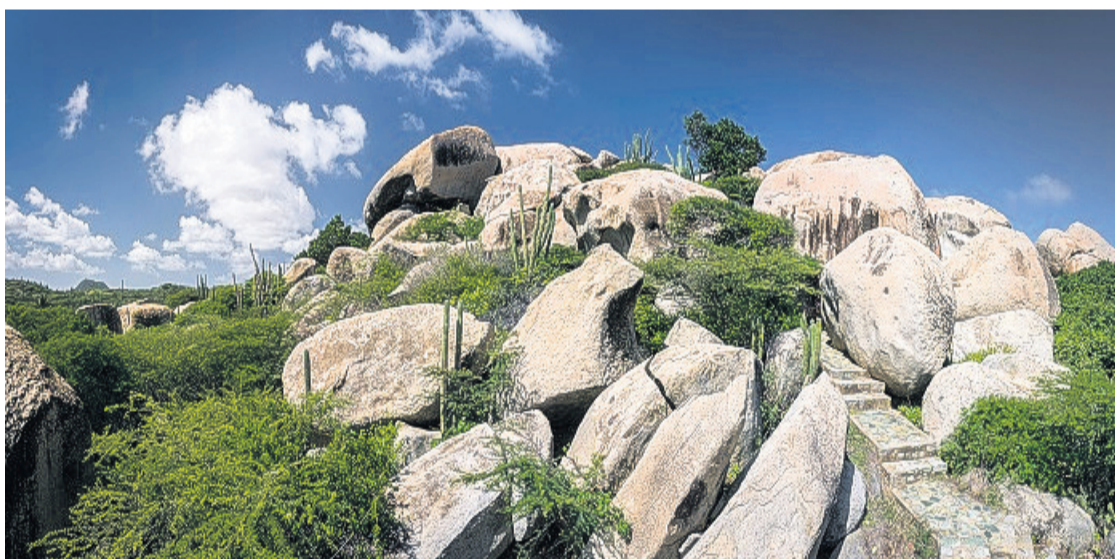
Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to the general pub-



lic. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat bolder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south. Right in front of the entrance, there is the Casibari Café and Grill, a great place to get refreshments and snack before continuing your off-road adventure!

Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way!

*Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi! ☐



Aruba to me

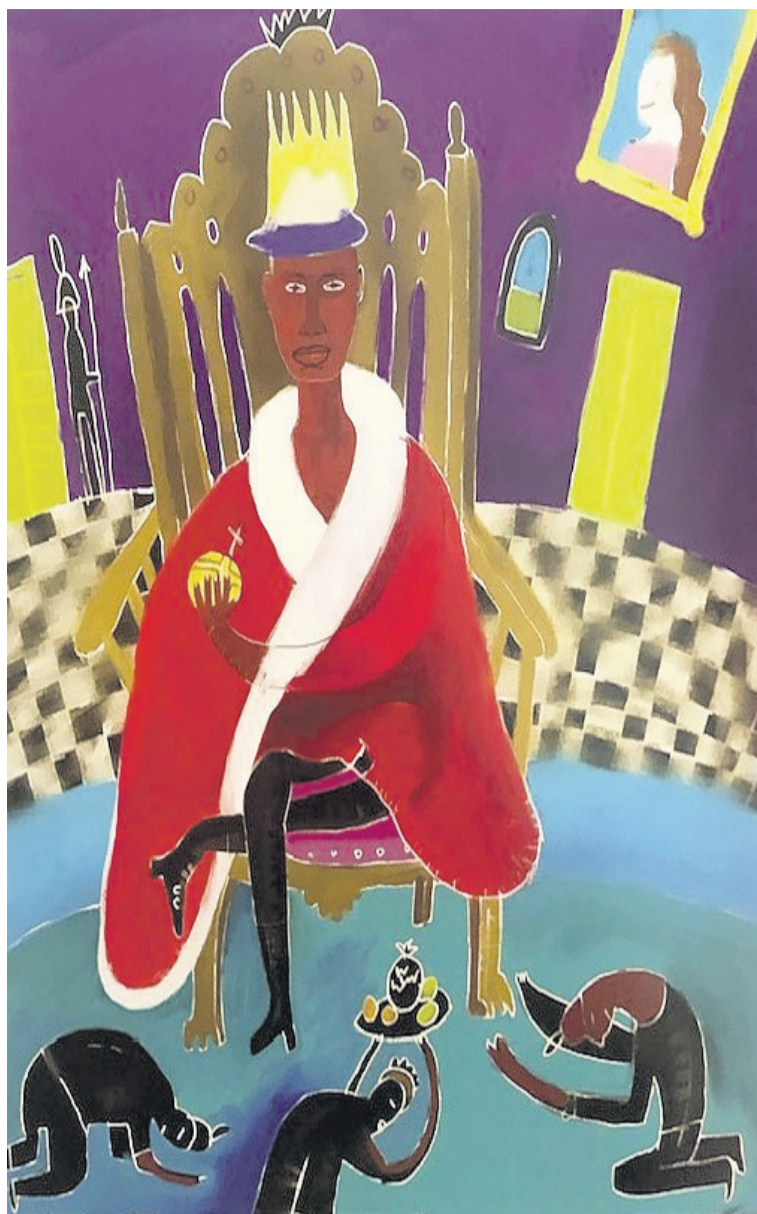
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The stories of "Compa Nanzi"



(Oranjestad)—The most popular character you may hear about in the Caribbean is Anansi, known locally on Aruba as "Compa Nanzi". Local children grew up hearing the tales of the conniving spider, and his legacy forms part of the oral narrative tradition that is common in Aruba.

Although the stories are most popular in the Caribbean, "Compa Nanzi" is not entirely unknown globally, especially not in the West African region. Brought to the "new world" by enslaved Africans from Ghana, the historical thread of how Nanzi was introduced on Aruba follows the enslaved Africans in Curacao during the colonial era, which saw the biggest population of enslaved Africans in the Dutch Caribbean.

The stories of Compa Nanzi were a sign of hope for freedom among the slaves, who passed around different stories involving the famous spider through word of mouth, due to not being able to express their native culture in the new world. These stories were a way to not only preserve their culture, but it acted as a medium for relief during the harsh treatment to which they were subjected to.

It wasn't until the end of the nineteenth century that the stories of Nanzi were written down in different languages. However, not all stories are completely alike in every country, as is the risk of oral story telling. However, one thing will always be dominant in Compa Nanzi's stories: his sneaky ways to get what he wants!

How Nanzi fooled the king

One day Nanzi was taking a stroll near the castle of Shon Arei, the king. He had this sudden urge to walk in. He didn't think too much about it and committed to what he had in mind. It was a warm afternoon, and the castle personnel were taking their afternoon nap. Even the soldier guarding the castle door was fast asleep, snoring so loud that his beard bounced up and down on his chin. Nanzi just slipped past him, looked back for a moment then walk right on in.

Nanzi stumbled upon the king's quarters. With all his excitement he sat in the king's throne, and put on his crown that was hanging on the side of the throne. It was very hot that day, and it wasn't long until Nanzi too fell asleep, right there on the king's throne. He was so deep in sleep and snoring so loud, that even when the king found him in his seat, Nanzi did not even notice.

Shon Arei was flabbergasted by the sight of Nanzi on his throne, wearing his crown. How disrespectful! "Soldiers, get him!" he commanded. Nanzi was sound asleep, but when the soldiers picked him up, he jumped from fright. By then though, the soldier already had him in their hold.

"Put him in a sack, stitch it up and throw him in the ocean!" the king said furiously. Two soldiers immediately entered the chamber, took the crown off Nanzi's head and pushed him in a sack.

Nanzi was terrified; it looks like this time he

won't get away with his schemes. To get to the ocean, the soldier walked a long distance, and where beginning to feel very thirsty. Luckily they passed by a pub, and decided to have a nice cold beer. They set the sack with Nanzi in it outside and went to enjoy the refreshments. Nanzi was still trembling with fear in the sack. What is that he hears? A herd of sheep walking by?

"Compadre, listen here!" Nanzi screamed as loud as he could. The sheep herder got close to the sack. "What is this?"

"Man, there is something very beautiful in here that you can see. It's very rare and strange, but indeed, there is something so beautiful in here that you've never seen or will ever see," Nanzi told the herder.

The herder, very dumb, believed Nanzi's word. "Let me see!" he said.

"Well if you must insist," Nanzi said, "I'll let you take a look, but only for a quick second." The herder opened the sack, and Nanzi immediately jumped out. Before the herder could even take a look into the sack, Nanzi pushed him in it, and the herder fell head first in.

Nanzi didn't waste any time, and closed off the sack real tight. He then picked up the herder's hat and starting walking behind the traveling sheep as if nothing happened. After a little while, the soldiers headed back outside to continue their journey. As they picked up the sack, the poor herder started screaming to let him out, but the soldiers ignored him, thinking it was Nanzi.

Shon Arei went strolling a while later. He thought to himself: "This time Nanzi could not get away with his foolishness. He probably drowned in that sack ages ago." That is why, when he saw Nanzi walk behind the herd of sheep on the street, he was flabbergasted again. "Nanzi! Aren't you suppose to be at the bottom of the ocean floor?"

"I was, Your Majesty," Nanzi replied. But you know what, there is so many things to see down there in the sack! Like this herd of sheep. Seeing that they had no herder, I started walking behind them and gained their trust pretty quickly. At the bottom of the ocean there are so many wonderful things, like diamonds, and bags of gold. Chests of silver and other precious stones," Nanzi told the king. "What is that you say?" the king was intrigued. "I want to see it too!"

The king immediately demanded to his soldiers to be put in a sack and be placed in the ocean. Naturally, Shon Arei died because of this. He was never found again. Nanzi followed the soldier back to the castle, where sat once again on the late king's thrown and put his crown on. He took possession of all of Shon Arei's belongings, and lived the rest of his life as king. □

Story and pictures are from "Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)" by Nilda Pinto.

Aruban legends: Frenchman's Pass

(Oranjestad)—If you ever plan on taking a group tour of the island, you may pass through the Frenchman's Pass in Balashi. The Frenchman's pass (known to locals as "Franse Pas") remains a mysterious—and spooky—road of which its legend is told from generation to generation.

The history of the Frenchman's pass—and how it got its name—dates back to the colonization era, when the French tried to colonize the island, but were met with an angry mob of indigenous settlers, refusing to give up their land. However, as the French were heavily equipped with fire arms, the indigenous settlers began to retreat, and hid away in nearby caves.

The French colonizers tried to smoke them out of the caves, but the indigenous settlers ended up inhaling too much smoke and most died in those caves. From then on, this passage was known as Frenchman's Pass, and there have been many accounts of spirits roaming the area of Spanish Lagoon.

There are many ghost stories surrounding this area, but one of the most famous one involves a lonely hitchhiker, trying to find a ride back home in the dark rainy night.

Sometime after trying to hitchhike, the man saw a car approaching, appearing almost ghost-like in the rain. However, since he needed a ride real bad, he didn't

think twice and jumped in. But to his horror, he noticed that there was no driver in the front. Paralyzed with fear, he didn't dare to get out, and the car started to move.

When approaching a sharp turn, the hitch hiker braced for impact, but just when he thought the car might drive straight off the road and crash, he saw a hand appear out the window and turn the wheel. For the next few turns, the hand appeared again. After having had enough, the man decided to jump out and he ran to Santa Cruz.

Arriving at a nearby bar, he ordered a drink and began to tell everyone about his experience. Everyone grew



quiet, because they realized he wasn't some drunk messing around; he was telling the truth.

Sometime later, two men walked into the bar and one of them noticed the hitchhiker. He called out to his buddy and said: "Look, there's the idiot who sat in our car when we were pushing it!"

French man's pass is one of the few sites on the island that keeps the locals on their toes. While most ghost stories may not have real grounds—or some may even be a set up story for a joke, this pass contributes a lot to our culture of folkloric story-telling. □

Source: visitaruba.com

Aruban snacks and where to find them



ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and

sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area.



You can also find pastechis and kroketen at local bakeries and snack shops, like Bright Bakery in Piedra Plat, Huchada in Santa Cruz or Pastechi House in the city center. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batido shops next the flea markets downtown, or if you're on your way to San Nicolas, at Mauchi Smoothies and Juice Bar in Savaneta (located at the side of the main road).

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:



1. Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
2. Along the main road next to the airport field.
3. At the California Light House.
4. At the Alto Vista Chapel.

other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them! □

Photo credit: wheninaruba.com

These vendors may also sell



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 39 Soft

1 Some leather turns

6 Low-budget

41 Doled

11 Maui (out)

greeting 42 Haste

12 Cut's

counter-

part

13 Mystical

deck

14 Famed fur

trader

15 River of

Iraq

17 Bulldog

backer

18 Compass

dir.

19 Philoso-

pher

Bertrand

22 Cardinal

23 Figures of

speech

24 Helpers:

Abbr.

25 Shylock's

outwitted

27 Drenched

30 High-

speed

warship

31 Dr.'s grp.

32 Derby,

e.g.

33 Wealth

35 Radiant

38 T,

for one

DOWN

1 Second

of two

2 Galahad's

mother

3 Not

authentic,

in a way

4 God with

a hammer

5 Swift and

others

6 Tax-time

VIP

7 Holds

8 Respect

9 Island

rings

10 Danger

16 More

melo-

dramatic

20 Indian

musicians

21 Distress

call

24 "Entou-

rage"

role

25 European

capital

26 Plug's

place

27 Surfer girl

28 Appear

29 Sampled

30 Deep

gorge

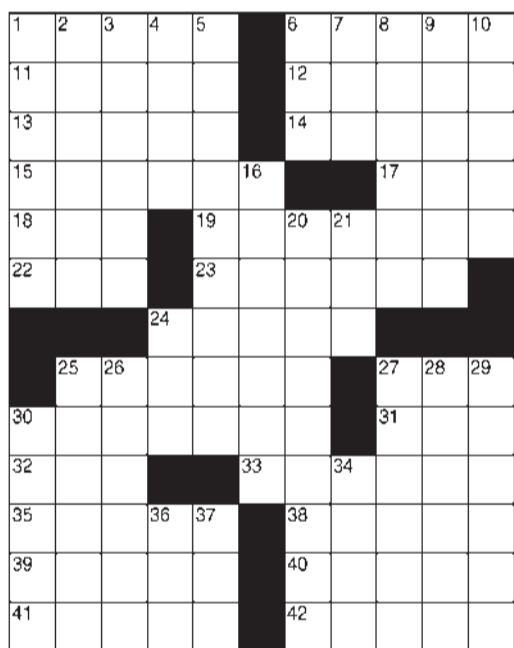
34 Memory

item

36 Exalted

verse

37 Unite



6-24

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-24

CRYPTOQUOTE

DMWX U CUYMWJ GBWUTG, LUQ

MFG HMFVJWX MWUJ YMW

APOW FX MFG OPFW USPOW

UAA WAGW. — RXTXPDX

Cryptoquote: NO ONE ELSE HOLDS
THE VISION FOR MY LIFE BUT ME. — AMERICA
FERRERA

Cruise ship Schedule: June 01 - 27 2025

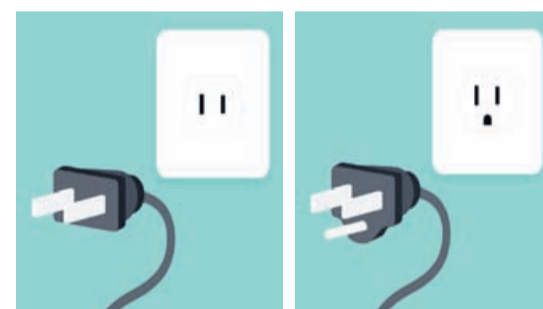
			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SUN	01	SILVER SHADOW FREEWINDS - Dept.	08.00 ****	23.00 22.30	C E	1 -
WED	04	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
TUE	10	CARNIVAL HORIZON CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS	09.00 13.00	23.00 23.00	C I	1 1
TUE	17	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL VISTA	07.00 13.00	16.00 23.00	B C	1 1
WED	18	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00 08.00 07.00	22.00 23.00 16.00	C B I	1 1 1
TUE	24	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
FRI	27	SEVEN SEAS MARINER	10.00	21.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Tariff threats, wars will slow but not collapse global luxury sales in 2025, new study shows



These are Gucci bags in the window of a Gucci store in Pittsburgh on Jan. 30, 2023.

Associated Press

By COLLEEN BARRY

Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Global sales of personal luxury goods are "slowing down but not collapsing," according to a Bain & Co. consultancy study released Thursday. Personal luxury goods sales that eroded to 364 billion euros (\$419 billion) in 2024 are projected to slide by another 2% to 5% this year, the study said, citing threats of U.S. tariffs and geopolitical tensions triggering economic slowdowns.

"Still, to be positive in a difficult moment with three wars, economies slowing down, inequality at a maximum ever it's not a market in collapse," said Bain partner and co-author of the study Claudia D'Arpizio. "It is slowing down but not collapsing."

Alongside external head-

winds, luxury brands have alienated consumers with an ongoing creativity crisis and sharp price increases, Bain said. Buyers have also been turned off by recent investigations in Italy that revealed that sweatshop conditions in subcontractors making luxury handbags.

Sales are slipping sharply in powerhouse markets the United States and China, the study showed. In the U.S., market volatility due to tariffs has discouraged consumer confidence. China has recorded six quarters of contraction on low consumer confidence. The Middle East, Latin America and Southeast Asia are recording growth. Europe is mostly flat, the study showed.

This has created a sharp divergence between brands

that continue with strong creative and earnings growth, such as the Prada Group, which posted a 13% first-quarter jump in revenue to 1.34 billion euros, and brands like Gucci, where revenue was down 24% to 1.6 billion euros in the same period.

Gucci owner Kering last week hired Italian automotive executive Luca De Meo, the former CEO of Renault, to mount a turnaround. The decision comes as three of its brands Gucci, Balenciaga and Bottega Veneta are launching new creative directors.

Kering's stock surged 12% on news of the appointment. D'Arpizio underlined his track record, returning French carmaker Renault to profitability and previous roles as marketing director at Volkswagen and Fiat.

"All of these factors resonate well together in a market like luxury when you are in a phase where

growth is still the name of the game, but you also need to make the company more nimble in terms of costs, and turn around some of the brands," she said. Brands are also making changes to minimize the impact of possible U.S. tariffs. These include shipping directly from production sites and not warehouses and reducing stock in stores. □



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2 Bed Oceanside: \$27,000
2 Bed Ocean View: \$24,500
2 Bed Garden View: \$20,000
3 Bed Ocean View: \$36,000
2 Bed WK 7 Oceanside: \$62,000
Ask about weeks 51, 52 & 14

GOLD SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront: \$21,500
2 Bed Oceanside: \$15,500
2 Bed Ocean View: \$14,500
2 Bed Garden View: \$13,000
3 Bed Ocean View: \$30,000

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

PLATINUM SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront: \$60,000
2 Bed Ocean View: \$29,000
1 Bed Ocean Front: \$23,000
1 Bed Ocean View: \$17,500

GOLD SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront: \$22,500
2 Bed Ocean View: \$17,000
1 Bed Oceanfront: \$13,000
1 Bed Ocean View: \$11,500

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San Nicolas:

Seroe Preto: Tel. 584 4833

OTHER

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

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EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
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TRAVEL INFO

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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002

FAVI- Visually Impaired
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Alcoholics Anonymous
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Narcotics Anonymous
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Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
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Think you know 'Jaws'? Test your knowledge with this trivia ahead of the movie's 50th anniversary

By The Associated Press

Friday marks the 50th anniversary of "Jaws." It remains one of the most beloved and rewatched movies of all time. But how good is your knowledge of the some of lore surrounding Steven Spielberg's 1975 masterpiece? Read on and see how much you know about "Jaws."

What was the nickname given to the shark?

Spielberg named his mechanical shark "Bruce," after his attorney, Bruce Ramer.

Where did the title come from?

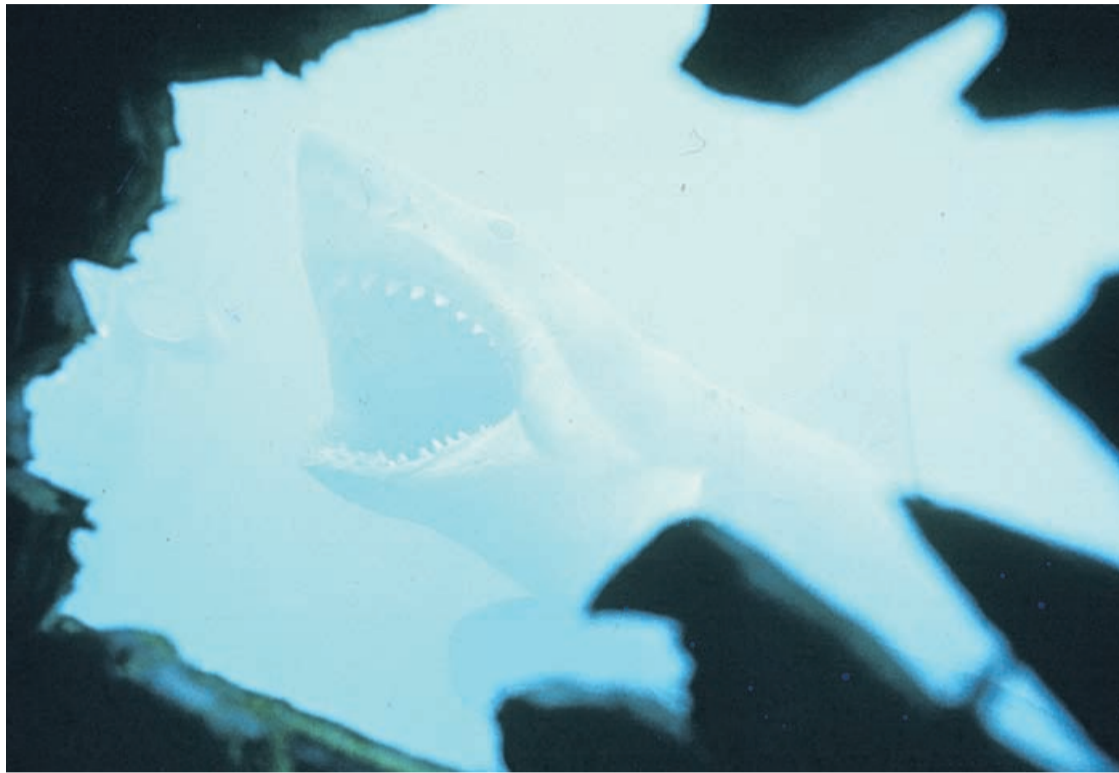
When author Peter Benchley's 1974 book was going to print, he needed to choose a title. He has juggled various titles "Leviathan Rising," "Silent Fall" before, at the last minute, choosing "Jaws." What did it mean? Benchley, himself, wasn't sure, he told his editor, but it was short.

What's the origin of the iconic movie poster?

The image of the rising shark came from the cover of the novel's paperback edition, illustrated by Roger Kastel. For his painting, Kastel went to the American Museum of Natural History to photograph a great white shark from a diorama that was laying on an easel.

What was the inspiration for Amity?

Though Spielberg shot "Jaws" on Martha's Vineyard, off Cape Cod, it was



This image released by Peacock shows a scene from "Jaws."

the neighboring island, Nantucket, that inspired Benchley's novel. He has spent time fishing there with his father. In the book, the fictional Amity is on the south shore of Long Island.

Who was first attached to direct "Jaws"?

Dick Richards was initially in line to direct the film, but producer Richard D. Zanuck said he lost the job after, in a meeting, repeatedly referring to the shark as a whale.

How old was Spielberg when he began the project?

26. Who sought but was turned down the role of Brody?

Charlton Heston wanted to play the Amity Island police chief, but Spielberg instead cast Roy Scheider.

What's the name of Quint's boat?

The Orca. Not coincidentally, two years after the massive success of "Jaws," a 1977 ripoff about a killer whale was released titled "Orca."

What led to the shark often malfunctioning?

Salt water. The shark, built by special effects artist Bob Matthey, would get corroded by the salt water of the Atlantic Ocean, leaving it unusable for times particularly early in the filmmaking. Spielberg piv-

oted and instead doesn't show the shark until well into the film, an approach that ultimately led to a far more suspenseful film. Spielberg once estimated that Bruce's mechanical delays added \$175 million to the movie's box office.

How long into "Jaws" does the shark fully appear on screen?

It's not until one hour and 21 minutes into the movie that we really see the shark.

Was the movie's most iconic line scripted?

No, Schieder adlibbed "You're gonna need a bigger boat." Screenwriter Carl Gottlieb, though, has said the line had been per-

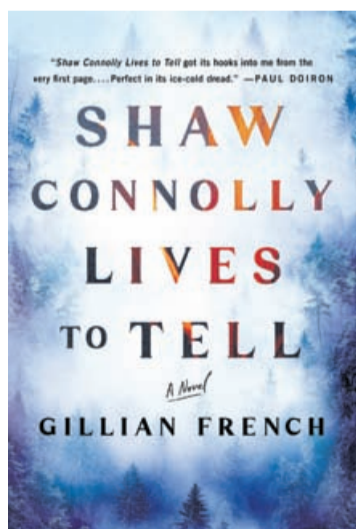
colating on set. The size of the barge carrying equipment and craft services was often slighted by the crew who felt producers weren't spending enough. Gottlieb told The Hollywood Reporter in 2016: "It became a catchphrase for any time anything went wrong if lunch was late or the swells were rocking the camera, someone would say, 'You're gonna need a bigger boat.'"

What disaster was Quint a survivor of?

The sinking of the USS Indianapolis, the U.S. Navy cruiser torpedoed by a Japanese submarine during World War II. Quint's lengthy and memorably speech in the film wasn't in the novel but was, according to Spielberg, penned by the uncredited screenwriter John Milius. Spielberg wanted a backstory to why Quint hated sharks so much. Though debate has continued over the years over who wrote the monologue, everyone has agreed Shaw synthesized it, and deserves most of the credit for the scene's power.

Does Spielberg appear in "Jaws"?

The director isn't seen in the film but his voice is heard. During the finale of the film when Quint is readying the harpoon, it's Spielberg's voice on the radio. He says: "This is Amity point light-station to Orca. Orca, come in." □



This cover image released by Minotaur shows "Shaw Connolly Lives to Tell" by Gillian French.

Associated Press

Book Review: A fingerprint expert obsessed with learning the fate of her missing sister

By BRUCE DESILVA
Associated Press

Sixteen years have passed since Shaw Connolly's teenage sister, Thea, slipped out of their family home in rural Maine to party with friends and never came home.

Shaw (short for Shawnee), now a fingerprint expert for law enforcement agencies, is certain that her sister was murdered, but she is obsessed with learning where she was buried.

Even now, after all these years, she continues to put up posters and roam the woods of their hometown with a cadaver dog. Her obsession takes a toll not only on her but on her family, driving her husband away and traumatizing her two boys.

But in author Gillian French's "Shaw Connolly Lives To Tell," Shaw isn't the only one who is obsessed. Someone is ob-

sessed with her.

His name is Anders Jansen, and he calls Shaw frequently, often at odd hours. He taunts her about Thea, revealing details that hint at his involvement in the girl's disappearance but never enough to justify an arrest.

As their cat-and-mouse game continues, the phone calls become more menacing, and soon he starts following her and making vague threats against her family. When Shaw grows alarmed enough to get a protective order, he violates it, giving police a justification to make an arrest. But now he's on the run, the police can't find him, and the calls continue.

Meanwhile, Shaw has a job to do. She assists police investigating the death of a man who was bludgeoned while walking his dog. She is called to assist with an arson fire in a vacant building. But then there is another arson fire. □

Former Jets and Ravens linebacker C.J. Mosley announces his retirement after 11 years in NFL

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.
AP Pro Football Writer

C.J. Mosley is ready to tackle life beyond playing football.

A five-time Pro Bowl selection during an 11-year NFL career with the New York Jets and Baltimore Ravens, Mosley announced Thursday, his 33rd birthday, that he's retiring.

Mosley was released by the Jets in March after playing in just four games last season because of a toe injury and later a herniated disk in his neck.

A popular playmaker and leader during his career, Mosley made his announcement with a 2-minute, 10-second video post on his Instagram page titled "Once upon a time ..." that included highlights of his playing career.

"Today, it is time to wake up from my childhood dream and share it with the next generation," Mosley said. "I spent my whole life and career building my legacy. Now it's time to start a new chapter with new dreams. It won't be easy, but I'm here to tell you every sacrifice is worth it.

"When you wake up, what



New York Jets linebacker C.J. Mosley (57) during an NFL football game against the Tennessee Titans Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024, in Nashville, Tenn.

will your legacy look like?" Mosley, the 17th overall pick by Baltimore in the 2014 draft out of Alabama, had nearly 1,100 tackles with 12 sacks, 12 interceptions, 10 forced fumbles, nine fumble recoveries and three touchdowns. He played five standout seasons with the Ravens before signing a five-year, \$85 million contract with

the Jets in 2019 and was the heartbeat of New York's defense during his tenure as one of the NFL's top tacklers. Both the Jets and Ravens posted congratulatory messages for Mosley on social media. "Captain! Thankful for the memories we couldn't have asked for a better leader!" former Jets team-

mate and current Broncos defensive end John Franklin-Myers commented on Mosley's post. "Half-Man Half-Amazing congrats on a great career bro," former Ravens teammate and current Baltimore assistant special teams coach Anthony Levine wrote. Mosley, who is from Theodore, Alabama, was rat-

Associated Press

ed as one of the top high school linebackers in the country before heading to Tuscaloosa to play for Nick Saban and the Crimson Tide after getting offers from several top football programs.

He made a quick impact in college, earning Freshman All-American honors, and helped Alabama win consecutive BCS national championships during the 2011 and 2012 seasons. Mosley also was selected the SEC defensive player of the year and won the Butkus Award in 2013 as college football's top linebacker.

Mosley became the first Ravens player voted to the Pro Bowl as a rookie. He made the Pro Bowl three more times before leaving for New York and signing what was then the largest free agent deal for an inside linebacker.

Mosley had an impressive debut with the Jets with five tackles and returned an interception by Josh Allen for a touchdown against the Bills, but he injured his groin in the third quarter and played in just one more game that season. □

Verlander remains winless in return to the San Francisco Giants after injury

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — It's the middle of June, and Justin Verlander is still looking for his first win with the San Francisco Giants. Verlander returned

Wednesday night after being sidelined by a strained right pectoral muscle. The three-time AL Cy Young Award winner allowed four runs, three earned, and

seven hits in 4 2/3 innings against Cleveland. "It felt good to be back out there," Verlander said. "Obviously, was a bit inconsistent. Wanted to give us a better chance to win but stuff seemed OK and hopefully the inconsistency can clean up quickly." It was the first major league appearance for the 42-year-old Verlander since May 18. He is 0-4 with a 4.45 ERA in 11 starts after finalizing a \$15 million, one-year contract with San Francisco in January. Verlander was activated from the 15-day injured list, and catcher Patrick Bailey was reinstated from the 10-day IL. Right-hander Tristan Beck and catcher Logan Porter were optioned to Triple-A Sacramento.

The 26-year-old Bailey is coming back from a strained neck. He started behind the plate and singled in his first two at-bats. "His stuff overall was pretty good," Bailey said about Verlander. "Made some mistakes and they put some good swings on it." Verlander allowed a run in the first when Kyle Manzardo doubled and scored on José Ramírez's single. Verlander was hurt by a one-out error on second baseman Tyler Fitzgerald in the fourth. Lane Thomas followed with a single to center before Daniel Schenemann connected for a three-run homer on an 0-2 fastball. The nine-time All-Star struck out six and walked one. He threw 83 pitches, 56 for

strikes. "It was really the three-run homer that got him," Giants manager Bob Melvin said. "It was just getting the ball up probably not where he wanted to. He was pitching around some traffic at times. I expect him to be a little crisper next time out." Verlander has a 262-150 career record and could conceivably join the 300-win club next season. For now, he was just happy to get back on the mound it what has been a difficult season for the three-time Cy Young Award winner. "This season's been a mental challenge just kind of trying to find my groove," Verlander said. "But as far as like the mental hurdle of feeling if I was healthy (tonight), I felt like I was OK." □



San Francisco Giants pitcher Justin Verlander throws to a Cleveland Guardians batter during the first inning of a baseball game Wednesday, June 18, 2025, in San Francisco.

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Top-ranked Nelly Korda even par to start Women's PGA after reaggravating neck injury

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

FRISCO, Texas (AP) — Nelly Korda shot an even-par 72

in the opening round of the KPMG Women's PGA Championship on Thursday, three days after the world's top-ranked player reaggravated a neck injury during a practice round.

While Korda said she doesn't feel pain hitting shots, the two-time major champion said she has pain "just with rotation" of her neck and that it is hard to get comfortable to sleep at night.

"It's better, yeah. Getting better every day, which is nice," she said. "Just because I injured it last year, whenever I do injure my neck it takes a little bit longer than normal. I kind of tweaked it before my round with Ariya (Jutanugarn) in Vegas this year, during the night I couldn't move then, so thankfully it

wasn't as bad as that day. Just takes me like a week to kind of recover when I tweak my neck now."

Korda late last year skipped two tournaments during the LPGA's Asia swing because of a minor neck injury, and

that loss to Jutanugarn in match play was in April. Korda said earlier this week that her neck "went into a

full spasm" after hitting a shot out of the rough during a practice round at the Fields Ranch East course at PGA Frisco on Monday, before skipping the champions dinner that night.

In the first round of the season's third major, Korda had two birdies and two bogeys. She was four shots behind Jeeno Thitikul, the world's No. 2-ranked player who was in the same group and the early leader at 4-under 68.

"Overall I mean, even par to start the major ... it was windier in the morning than I thought it would be. So played a little tougher. Yeah, I'm pretty happy with my first round in the conditions," Korda said. "It was pretty windy. It was hot. It definitely takes a toll on you, the Texas heat. So happy with my position. I haven't even really looked at the leaderboard, to be honest." □



Nelly Korda hits to the third green during the first round of the Women's PGA Championship golf tournament, Thursday, June 19, 2025, in Frisco, Texas.

Associated Press